

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 740  
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the prevalence of cervical cancer and human papillomavirus in women in this state and evaluate the current methods of public education and access to regular cervical cancer screening and options for increasing screening accuracy.

WHEREAS, following breast cancer, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women worldwide; and

WHEREAS, according to federal governmental statistics, cervical cancer is the third most common gynecological cancer among American women, with approximately 12,200 new cases diagnosed annually, 4,100 of which result in fatalities; and

WHEREAS, with regular and accurate screening, cervical cancer is highly preventable; widespread screening programs have helped to reduce death rates of women from cervical cancer, but women are still dying even with such advanced medical techniques and evaluative procedures; and

WHEREAS, cervical cancer cases in the United States are generally attributed to a lack of education, a reduction of access available to regular cervical cancer screening, and a lack of screening accuracy; and

WHEREAS, experience shows that increasing cervical cancer awareness among women, especially the underserved women within our state, significantly reduces the probability of mortality; and

WHEREAS, new screening technologies, including FDA-approved testing for human papillomavirus, which is the cause of virtually all cervical cancers, offer new opportunities to finally eliminate this potentially deadly disease through early identification of women at increased risk; and

WHEREAS, leading medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Cancer Society, and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, have recently updated their screening guidelines to include FDA-approved testing for the human papillomavirus; and

WHEREAS, women are entitled to proper cervical cancer information, so that they can be empowered to make informed healthcare decisions, and access to routine screening, including the most accurate methods available; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly recognizes that through education and screening, women can lower their likelihood for developing cervical cancer, and that through early detection, cervical cancer can be successfully treated after it develops; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to review data regarding cervical cancer and human papillomavirus of women within this state and evaluate current methods used to provide women with information regarding cervical cancer, access to regular screening, and options for increasing screening accuracy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vicechair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly no later than March 1, 2005, at which time the committee shall cease to exist